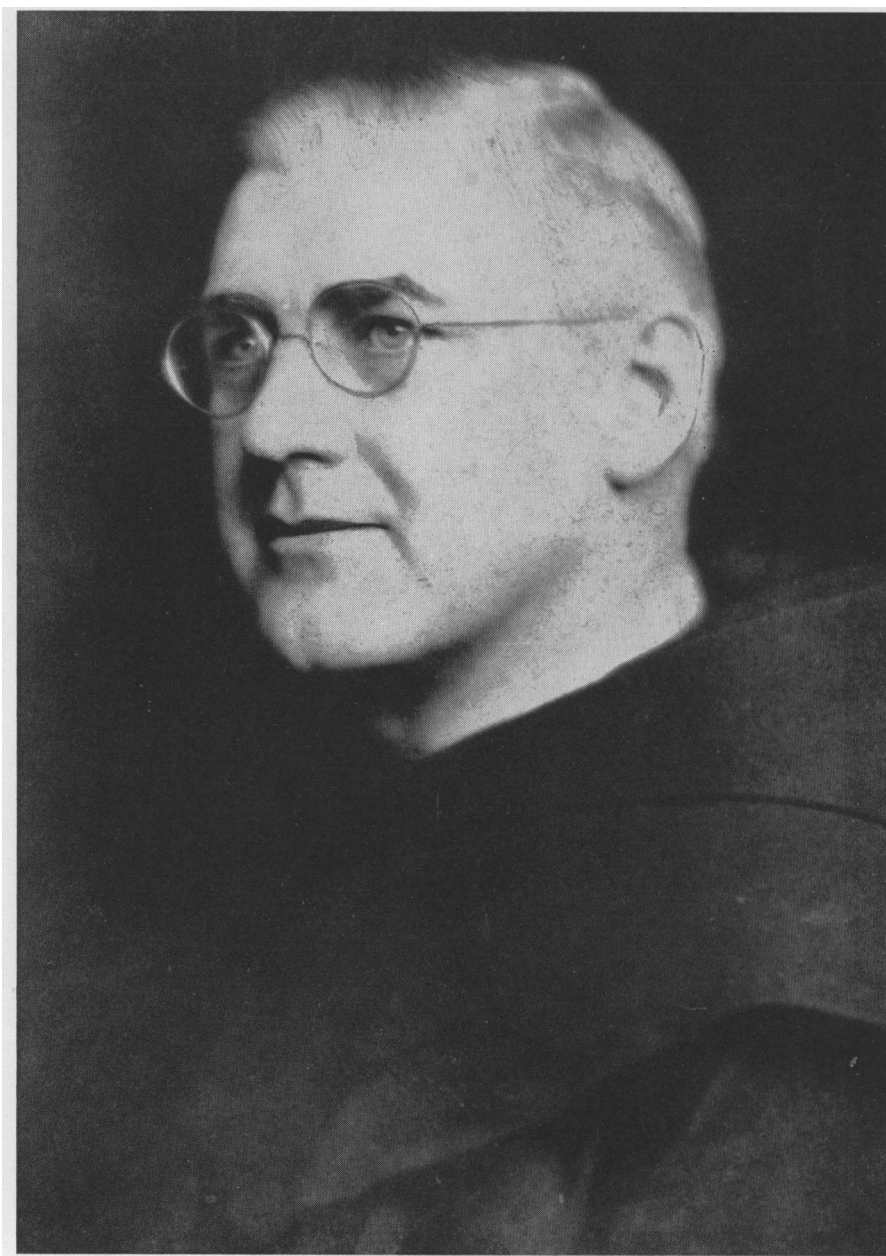


This number of
THE AMERICAS
is respectfully dedicated to
THE MOST REVEREND
VALENTINE SCHAAF, O.F.M.
MINISTER GENERAL
of the
ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR



MOST REVEREND VALENTINE SCHAAF, O.F.M.

MINISTER GENERAL of the FRANCISCAN ORDER

113th Successor Of Saint Francis

The Academy of American Franciscan History and the editorial staff of THE AMERICAS join with the many other Franciscan institutions and publications in rendering a filial homage of respect and devotion to the Most Reverend Valentine Schaaf, who was recently appointed Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. Father Valentine well merits the singular honor of being the first American friar to hold the highest office in the Franciscan Order since its foundation seven centuries ago.

Father Valentine was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 18, 1883. He entered the Franciscan Order August 15, 1901. After completing his studies in the Franciscan seminaries at Cincinnati, Ohio, Louisville, Kentucky, and Oldenburg, Indiana, he was ordained to the priesthood June 29, 1909. He taught at Saint Francis College, Cincinnati from 1909 to 1918. He then pursued graduate studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., where he received the following degrees: Bachelor of Sacred Theology and Bachelor of Canon Law in 1919; Licentiate of Canon Law, 1920; and Doctor of Canon Law, 1921.

Father Schaaf served as Professor of Canon Law at the Franciscan Seminary, Oldenburg, Indiana, 1921-1923, in which year he accepted the Associate Professorship of Canon Law at the Catholic University of America (1923-1928), becoming full Professor in 1928. Appointed Dean of the School of Canon Law in 1933, he held this office until his departure for Rome in 1937, when he was appointed Definitor General to represent the English-speaking Provinces of the United States, Great Britain, Ireland and Australia, at the headquarters of the Franciscan Order.